

**THIS IS A BAD BILL. WHY DO YOU WANT TO TAX THE OIL COMPANIES MORE? THESE COMPANIES EMPLOY PEOPLE WHO PAY TAXES. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE BAKKEN FIELD IN EASTERN MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND CANADA? THIS USED TO BE CALLED THE WILLISTON BASIN DURING THE 1950'S. WIBAUX, RICHLAND, DAWSON, AND FALLON COUNTIES WERE THE RICHEST COUNTIES IN MONTANA DURING THE 50'S DUE TO OIL ACTIVITY, UNTIL THE STATE LEGISLATORS CHANGED THE LAW AND MADE THEM SHARE THEIR WEALTH WITH THE REST OF THE STATE. THE OIL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN REDUCED TO NEARLY ZERO IN MONTANA LATELY DUE TO MONTANA TAXING THE OIL COMPANIES MORE THEN ND., WYO., SD., OR CANADA. FOR EVERY OIL WELL IN EASTERN MONTANA, THERE ARE PROBABLY 20 ACROSS THE BORDER IN ND. RATHER THEN TALK TO THE OIL COMPANIES, GO TALK TO THE UNEMPLOYED ROUGHNECKS, AND OTHER OIL FIELD WORKERS. WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF THESE PEOPLE WERE WORKING FOR WAGES AND PAYING TAXES, RATHER THEN DRAWING UNEMPLOYMENT CHECKS, FOOD STAMPS, ETC. I THOUGHT OUR GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO RAISE TAXES!!!!!! IF YOU RAISE THESE TAXES ON THE OIL COMPANIES YOU WILL JUST SEND THEM OUT OF OUR STATE 100%, AND THEY WILL STILL GET OUR OIL FROM RIGHT ACROSS OUR BORDERS. BESIDES THAT YOU WILL NOT GET ANY TAX REVENUE WHEN THEY ARE GONE, BUT THEY WILL BE SUCKING OUR OIL RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER US. ANOTHER ISSUE TO CONSIDER IS REDUCING EPA STANDARDS, SO WE CAN GET MORE OIL REFINERIES BUILT IN MONTANA TO REFINE THIS OIL THAT IS BEING SENT TO CANADA OR MEXICO TO BE PROCESSED. LOOK AT THE THOUSANDS OF JOBS THAT COULD BE CREATED, BY BUILDING AND OPERATING MORE REFINERIES AND DRILLING AND SHIPPING OIL IN MONTANA.**

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME,**

**MELVIN P. DRAKE, 5950 CANYON FERRY ROAD,  
HELENA, MONTANA 59602 PHONE 475-3481**